

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

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1 (original). A circuit for unobtrusively masking transient signals in an electronic device, said circuit comprising:

an amplifier having a gain control input for receiving digital data and a signal input;

a register having an output coupled to said gain control input;

an adder coupled to said register for storing data in said register and having a pair of inputs, said adder having a control input for adding or subtracting data on the inputs of the adder;

wherein said adder adjusts the gain of said amplifier in accordance with the signal on said control input.

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2 (original). The circuit as set forth in claim 1 and further including a control loop coupled to said adder for holding the gain of said amplifier at a predetermined value.

3 (original). The circuit as set forth in claim 1 and further including a summation circuit coupled to said signal input, wherein said summation circuit includes several inputs.

4 (original). The circuit as set forth in claim 3 wherein said summation circuit further includes logic for selecting one, all, or combinations of signals from the several inputs for summation.

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (cancelled).

13 (Amended). ~~The telephone as set forth in claim 12 wherein said soft mute circuit includes:~~ In a telephone, a soft mute circuit characterized by:

an amplifier having a gain control input for receiving digital data and a signal input;

a register having an output coupled to said gain control input;

an adder coupled to said register for storing data in said register and having a pair of inputs, said adder having a control input for adding or subtracting data on the inputs of the adder;

wherein said adder adjusts the gain of said amplifier in accordance with the signal on said control input.

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*Cont*  
14 (original). The telephone as set forth in claim 13 wherein said telephone includes a summation node and said summation node is coupled to said signal input.

15 (new). The telephone as set forth in claim 14 wherein telephone includes a plurality of band pass filters, each of said band pass filters having an output coupled to said summation node.

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